Arrests of Indian fishermen by Sri Lankan Naval Force

1997. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Indian fishermen have been arrested by Sri Lankan Naval Force;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to release those fishermen; and

(d) the dtails thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b) Fifty eight Indian fishermen were arrested by Sri Lankan Navy during the current year so far. They were arrested as they had entered into Sri Lankan waters and most of them had come very close to the Sri Lankan shore. In addition seventeen fishermen who had drifted to the Sri Lankan shore on account of rough weather were also taken into custody and have since been repatriated to India.

(c) and (d) Each incident of arrest of Indian fishermen is immediately taken up by the High Commission of India, Colombo with the Sri Lankan authorities seeking their early release. Out of the fifty eight fishermen arrested this year, thirteen have been released and repatriated to India. The Sri Lankan Government has agreed to release twelve more and modalities for their repatriation are being worked out. The release of the remaining fishermen is being vigorously pursued.

Drug trade in Jhuggies

1998. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of reports that police officials are abetting drug trade in jhuggies in some parts of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government have taken against the police officials who have been abetting the drug trade which has assumed great dimensions in that area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (c) There was one isolated case during the current year in which a Head Constable of Delhi Police was apprehended under Narcotics Drug Psycotropic Substances Act at the instance of an accused private person. He has since been dismissed from the service.

भारतीय हथकरघा परिधानों के आयात के लिए विदेशी सरकारों की रुचि

1999. **श्री गोपाल सिंह जी॰ सोलंकी :** क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या कुछ विदेशी सरकारों ने हाल ही में भारतीय हथकरघा परिधानों के आयात में रुचि दिखायी है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो व्यापार कार्य-योजना के प्रस्तावित क्रिया-कलापों का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या इस संबंध में तैयार की गयी कार्य-योजना को कार्यान्वित किया गया है; और

(घ) क्या राष्ट्रीय हथकरघा निगम ने इन देशों के साथ द्विपक्षीय समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं और किन-किन राज्यों से यह निर्यात किया जायेगा?

वस्त्र मंत्री (श्री आर.एल. जालप्पा) : (क) से (घ) भारत के हथकरघा उत्पादों का निर्यात भारतीय निर्यातकों द्वारा आयातक देशों में अपने प्रतिपक्षियों को विश्व के 100 से भी अधिक देशों को किया जा रहा है। तथापि, सरकार हथकरघा उत्पादों के व्यापक निर्यात संवर्धन के लिए अनेक कदम उठा रही है जैसे कि क्रेता विक्रेता बैठकों को प्रयोजित करना, प्रमुख बाजारों में, मेलों में भाग लेना, विदेशी व्यापार पत्रिकाओं में विज्ञापन जारी करना, उपयुक्त प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रमों के माध्यम से उत्पाद विकास तथा गुणवत्ता उन्नयन।

Indian Children in Pakistani Custody

2000. SHRI SNAJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'Edhi' a social organisation of Pakistan, has drawn the attention of the Government of India to the pathetic condition of 38 Indian children who were rounded up by Pak Security forces for illegal fishing in Pak waters;

(b) if so, whether 'Edhi' had requested Government to repatriate these children from Pakistan's custody; and

(c) if so, the Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) to (c) On 18th May, 1996 the Pakistani newspaper 'Dawn' carried a report which stated that 34 Indian children were lodged in the Edhi Welfare Centre, Karachi. The report further stated that these children had been arrested by the Pakistani authorities in September 1994.

The matter was immediately taken up with the Government of Pakistan who were requested to provide personal details/ documents of these children. Permission was also sought for officials of the High Commission of India, Islamabad to visit Karachi so as to obtain access to these children to determine their antecedents for taking further action to bring them to India.

Maulana Edhi of the Welfare Centre was also contacted to ascertain the welfare of the children and to determine their background. Maulana Edhi informed our High Commission in writing that formal permission of the Government of Pakistan would be required by his organisation for interacting with our Mission regarding these children.

After a long delay of several months, Government of Pakistan have in late November 1996 provided some details of the children which indicate that these children are from Gujarat and Daman and Diu and may have been in the fishing boats which were apprehended by Pakistani agencies for allegedly fishing in Pakistani waters. Confirmation of their identity is being expedited and the matter will be actively pursued with Pakistan so that the children return to India at the earliest.

Regrettably, Pakistan has not yet allowed our Mission officials to visit these children to ascertain their welfare.

Involvement of Indian Army in UN Peace Keeping Operations

2000. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the places where presently the Indian Army is involved in UN Peace Keeping Operations and the total number of Army personnel;

(b) the loss of life and injuries in these operations to Indian personnel, uptill now;

(c) the local response of the population to the Indian forces;

(d) whether any act of indiscipline by our forces has been reported, if so, Government reaction thereto; and

(e) whether Government would review its commitment in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) and (b) A Statement is attached. (*See* below)

(c) The local population has been appreciative of the professional approach and humanitarian attitude of the Indian troops.

(d) There has been no significant act of indiscipline among our troops in any UN Peace Keeping Operation. Adequate safeguards exist for ensuring maintenance of discipline by our troops. Appropriate corrective follow up action is taken in all cases of indiscipline, if any.

(e) There is no proposal at present to review the position regarding India's commitment to participate in UN Peace Keeping Missions.

Statement

As on date, the following number of Indian Army personnel are deployed/deputed in connection with UN Peace Keeping